Freeway meeting cancelled after school shooting

By Doug Murphy | AFN July 25, 2008 - 9:19AM

A school shooting caused the cancellation of a South Mountain Citizens Advisory Team meeting scheduled at South Mountain Community College Thursday.

The meeting was to begin at 6 p.m. to discuss the proposed South Mountain Loop 202 freeway. But two hours earlier police say Rodney Smith, 22 walked into the college computer lab, got into an argument and shot three people. He was taken into custody by police a few minutes later at his family's home near 24th Avenue.

Consultants and staff had just arrived at the college to prepare for the advisory team meeting when the shooting took place around 4 p.m. They were ordered to leave as police blocked off 24th Street from Baseline to north of the college and secured the crime scene.

The Arizona Department of Transportation attempted to move the meeting to another location, according to agency spokesman Tim Tait, but in the end said that the meeting would be rescheduled.